

1. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network;

a plurality of distributed wireless access points coupled to said network, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to generate a wireless signal to cause a mobile unit in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, one or more past transactions of the user of the mobile unit are identified, and said first wireless access point transmits information to said mobile unit that is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

13. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network;

at least one information provider coupled to the network;

a plurality of wireless access points coupled to said network and distributed in a region, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to generate a wireless signal to cause a mobile unit in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification

information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit is transmitted to the at least one information provider;

wherein the at least one information provider identifies past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, where the at least one information provider provides information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein the at least one information provider provides said information dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

23. (Amended) A method of using wireless network access points (APs) to service mobile users who are in a vicinity of the APs, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) a wireless access point scanning its coverage area to cause a portable computing device in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response, wherein said scanning comprises detecting the presence of a portable computing device in the vicinity of one of said APs, wherein the portable computing device is carried by a user, wherein said scanning and said detecting are performed in a wireless manner;

(b) providing identification information indicating the user of the portable computing device to said one of said APs in response to said detecting, wherein said providing is performed in a wireless manner;

(c) an information provider accessing past transaction information indicative of the past transactions of the user associated with said identification information;

(d) the information provider transmitting information to the portable computing device through said one of said APs, wherein a content of the information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the portable computing device, wherein said one of said APs provides the information to the portable computing device in a wireless fashion.

36. (Amended) A method of providing advertising to users of mobile units, the method comprising:

a wireless access point scanning its coverage area to cause a portable computing device in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response;

the wireless access point detecting the presence of a mobile unit in the vicinity of a the wireless access point, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

determining past transactions of a user of the mobile unit;

the wireless access point transmitting advertising information to the mobile unit in response to said detecting, wherein the advertising information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein at least a portion of said transmitting is performed by the wireless access point in a wireless fashion.

38. (Amended) A method of providing advertising to users of mobile units, the method comprising:

a wireless access point scanning its coverage area to cause a mobile unit in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response;

detecting the presence of a mobile unit in the vicinity of a the wireless access point, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

providing past transactions of a user of the mobile unit to a provider in response to said detecting;

the provider transmitting advertising information to the mobile unit, wherein the advertising information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein at least a portion of said transmitting is performed by the wireless access point in a wireless fashion.

39. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

a network;

one or more service providers coupled to the network; and

a plurality of wireless access points coupled to said network and distributed in a region, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to scan its coverage area to cause a portable computing device within the coverage area to generate a response, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point in proximity to said mobile unit, information is transmitted to a first service provider, said information including identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit;

wherein said first service provider is operable to perform a service in response to said information, wherein said service is performed based on the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

42. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a plurality of wireless access points operable to be coupled to a network and distributed in a region, wherein each of the plurality of wireless access points is configured to scan its coverage area to cause a mobile unit within its coverage area to generate a response detect a mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein each of the plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of the plurality of access points in proximity to the mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the first wireless access point transmits information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein the information is dependent upon past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

Please cancel claims 43 – 45.

Please add the following new claims:

46. (New) An airport terminal based communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit carried by a user in the airport terminal, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network located in the airport terminal;

a plurality of wireless access points located in the airport terminal and coupled to said network, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to communicate with said mobile unit, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after one or more past transactions of the user of the mobile unit are identified, said first wireless access point transmits information to said mobile unit that is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

47. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, wherein the past transactions include one or more of requirements, preferences, and habits of the user.

48. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, wherein the past transactions include information extrapolated from the user's past practices which indicates probable future actions consistent with the past practices.

49. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, wherein the past transactions include past commercial activities of the user.

50. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, further comprising:

a plurality of information providers coupled to said network, wherein each of said information providers is operable to provide said information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit based on the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

51. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, further comprising:

one or more information providers connected to said network, wherein a first information provider of said one or more information providers is operable to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first information provider is operable to identify the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit and provide said information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein said information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

52. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 51, wherein said one or more information providers include one or more of car rental agencies, hotels, restaurants, airline reservation centers, banks, taxi services, and bus and train reservation offices.

53. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 51, further comprising a management information base for storing at least one of a topology of the network, a directory of elements coupled to the network, characteristics of individual ones of said elements, characteristics of connection links, and performance and trend statistics of the network.

54. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, wherein said information is further dependent on a current known location of the mobile unit.

55. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region;

wherein said information is further dependent on a known location of said first wireless access point.

56. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, wherein the past transactions comprise past rental car transactions of the user.

57. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, wherein the wireless access point operates to scan its coverage area to cause a mobile unit in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response.

58. (New) An airport terminal based communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network;

at least one information provider coupled to the network;

a plurality of wireless access points located in the airport terminal and coupled to said network, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are distributed in the airport terminal, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to communicate with said mobile unit, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit is transmitted to the at least one information provider;

wherein the at least one information provider identifies past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, where the at least one information provider provides information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein the at least one information provider provides said information dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

59. (New) A hotel based communications service system, comprising:

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a mobile unit carried by a user in the airport terminal, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network located in the hotel;

a plurality of wireless access points located in the hotel and coupled to said network, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to communicate with said mobile unit, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after one or more past transactions of the user of the mobile unit are identified, said first wireless access point transmits information to said mobile unit that is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

60. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 59, wherein the past transactions include one or more of requirements, preferences, and habits of the user.



61. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 59, wherein the past transactions include information extrapolated from the user's past practices which indicates probable future actions consistent with the past practices.

62. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 59, wherein the past transactions include past commercial activities of the user.

63. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 59, further comprising:

a plurality of information providers coupled to said network, wherein each of said information providers is operable to provide said information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit based on the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

64. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 59, further comprising:

one or more information providers connected to said network, wherein a first information provider of said one or more information providers is operable to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first information provider is operable to identify the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit and provide said information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein said information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

65. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 64, wherein said one or more information providers include one or more of car rental agencies, hotels, restaurants, airline reservation centers, banks, taxi services, and bus and train reservation offices.

66. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 64, further comprising a management information base for storing at least one of a topology of the

network, a directory of elements coupled to the network, characteristics of individual ones of said elements, characteristics of connection links, and performance and trend statistics of the network.

67. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 59, wherein said information is further dependent on a current known location of the mobile unit.

68. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 59, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region;

wherein said information is further dependent on a known location of said first wireless access point.

69. (New) The hotel based communications service system of claim 59, wherein the past transactions comprise past rental car transactions of the user.

70. (New) The airport terminal based communications service system of claim 46, wherein the wireless access point operates to scan its coverage area to cause a mobile unit in proximity to the wireless access point to generate a response.

71. (New) A hotel based communications service system, comprising:  
a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network;

at least one information provider coupled to the network;

a plurality of wireless access points located in the hotel and coupled to said network, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are distributed in the hotel, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to communicate with said mobile unit, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also

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configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit is transmitted to the at least one information provider;

wherein the at least one information provider identifies past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, where the at least one information provider provides information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein the at least one information provider provides said information dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

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